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REMARKS

All the claims 1-10 are canceled. New claims 11-17 are added. No new matter is added. Support for new claims 11-17 can be found throughout the specification, particularly pages 5, 6, and 7. Favorable reconsideration and allowance are requested in light of the foregoing amendments and the remarks which follow.

1. Interview Acknowledgment

Applicants thank Examiner Clara Yang for the courtesies extended to Applicant's representative during the telephonic interview on June 29, 2006. During the interview, independent claims 1 and 10 and the dependent claims therefrom were discussed. Examiner Clara Yang and the Applicants agreed that a RCE with the new claims be submitted. In addition, Examiner Clara Yang and the Applicants also agreed that the independent new claims recite the updatable read field (a.k.a. "FROM" field) to identify a source of the packaged product and the updatable write field (a.k.a. "TO" field) to identify a destination of the packaged product. The updatable read field and updatable write field limitations are incorporated herein with the new claims 11-17 of the invention. The substance of the interview is summarized in the following remarks.

1. Rejection of claims under 35 USC § 102 (e) as being anticipated by Hawley et al. (US 2001/0021950)

The Office Action rejects Claims 1-10 under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hawley et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

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Applicants submit new independent claim 1 which recites an RFID tag having a data memory for storing at least one updatable read field to identify a source of the packaged product and at least one updatable write field to identify a destination of the packaged product. A RFID reader is in communication with the RFID tag such that each time the RFID tag is interrogated by the RFID reader, the data associated with the interrogation is simultaneously updated on the RFID data memory. The updatable read field is defined by the "FROM" field location and the updatable write memory is defined by "TO" field location. It is important to note that operators can update the new "TO" location and the system stores the "FROM" location as the prior "TO" location. In fact on page 7, lines 19-22 of the present invention, a process is described in which data is exchanged and stored on the RFID tag itself at each point in the supply chain. This 2-way exchange of information and its storage in the data memory is critical to the functioning of the process for tracking a packaged product throughout the supply chain. At each point in the supply chain, the tag is read and rewritten with data that is archived on both the external computer and the RFID tag itself (e.g., who, when, where the packaged product is handled in receiving, put away, picking and shipment). This 2-way data storage and retrieval process is not taught or even suggested by the Hawley et al.

The Hawley et al is primarily focused on how objects with an integral machine readable tag may automatically connect to remote databases via a computer system. All of the examples in the Hawley et al, except one, describe data exchanges whereby once a token is read, data is automatically provided to a user from an external computer. There is no mention in the Hawley et al that when the token is an RFID chip that the token receives and stores data in the memory of the RFID tag each time it is read by a reader and computer system. The only explicit example of

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the use of an RFID tag as a token in the Hawley et al is the example of the automobile key which stores and transfers data from the automobile internal computer to an external computer (Paragraph 0019). This example, however, only describes a process where the auto's computer transfers data and writes it to the tag on the key which is then read by the external computer. This is a relatively simple data exchange. Hawley et al does not describe a process where the external computer also writes data onto the tag on the key which can then be read by the auto's computer and archives this information on the tag itself.

Thus, Hawley et al does not identically describe the invention of the rejected claims as is required for anticipation. Therefore is rejection is inappropriate and should be withdrawn.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and the above remarks, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any remaining questions and the attending to of which would expedite such action, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

A two month extension of time is believed to be required. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees associated with this or any other communication, or credit any over payment, to Deposit Account No. 09-0525.

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Respectfully submitted,



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